

CLAIMS

I claim:

- 1 1. A ramp assembly for a pontoon boat having a deck supported by at least two pontoons,
2 the ramp assembly comprising:
 - 3 a pair of ramp support members attached beneath the deck, each ramp support
4 member having a substantially vertically-oriented surface;
 - 5 at least two rollers attached to the vertically-oriented surface;
 - 6 a ramp having a pair of side rails, one side rail being positioned on each side of a
7 walkway, the side rails each having an upper rail member and a lower rail
8 member joined by a web; and
 - 9 wherein the ramp is rollingly received between the ramp support members such
10 that the rollers are positioned between the upper rail member and the lower
11 rail member.
- 1 2. A ramp assembly according to claim 1 further comprising a plurality of lateral
2 stabilization members connected to the pair of ramp support members.
- 1 3. A ramp assembly according to claim 1, wherein the ramp support members are z-shaped
2 extrusions.

1 4. A ramp assembly according to claim 1, wherein:

2 the side rails of the ramp have an I-shaped cross section, thereby forming an

3 inboard pocket and an outboard pocket on either side of the web; and

4 the rollers are received by the outboard pockets of the side rails.

1 5. A ramp assembly according to claim 1, wherein:

2 the side rails of the ramp have an I-shaped cross-section, thereby forming an

3 inboard pocket and an outboard pocket on either side of the web;

4 the rollers are received by the outboard pockets of the side rails; and

5 the inboard pockets of the side rails receive a plurality of modular walkway

6 members.

1 6. A ramp assembly according to claim 5, wherein the walkway members are extruded
2 rectangular tubing.

1 7. A ramp assembly according to claim 1 further comprising:

2 an endcap leg disposed at an inboard end of the ramp; and

3 a lower ramp hanger connected to the ramp support members, the lower ramp

4 hanger having a hanger slot for receiving the endcap leg of the ramp when

5 the ramp is in an extended position.

1 8. A ramp assembly according to claim 1 further comprising:
2 an endcap leg disposed at an inboard end of the ramp;
3 an upper ramp hanger connected to the deck, the upper ramp hanger having a
4 hanger slot for receiving the endcap leg of the ramp when the ramp is in an
5 extended position; and
6 wherein a walkway surface of the ramp is substantially flush with an upper surface
7 of the deck when the endcap leg engages the hanger slot.

1 9. A ramp assembly according to claim 1 further comprising
2 a handle disposed at an outboard end of the ramp; and
3 a plank shoe pivotally connected to the handle, the plank shoe having an inclined
4 surface for providing a smooth transition between a walkway surface of
5 the ramp and an anchor surface on which the outboard end of the ramp
6 rests when the ramp is in an extended position.

- 1 10. A ramp assembly according to claim 1 further comprising:
 - 2 at least one hand railing;
 - 3 a plurality of support legs pivotally connected to the hand railing;
 - 4 a plurality of railing holes disposed in the ramp;
 - 5 wherein in an assembled position, a portion of the support legs are received by the
 - 6 railing holes and the hand railing is substantially parallel to the walkway
 - 7 surface of the ramp; and
 - 8 wherein in a collapsed position, the support legs are pivoted such to place the
 - 9 support legs adjacent to the hand railing for storage.

- 1 11. A ramp assembly for a pontoon boat having a deck supported by at least two pontoons,
- 2 the ramp assembly comprising:
 - 3 a pair of ramp support members attached beneath the deck, each ramp support
 - 4 member having a substantially vertically-oriented surface;
 - 5 at least two rollers attached to the vertically-oriented surface;
 - 6 a removable ramp having a pair of side rails, one side rail being positioned on
 - 7 either side of a walkway, the side rails each having an upper rail member
 - 8 and a lower rail member joined by a web;
 - 9 a first deck hanger positioned at the bow of the pontoon boat;
 - 10 a second deck hanger positioned at one of the port side and starboard side of the
 - 11 pontoon boat;
 - 12 wherein the ramp is rollingly received between the ramp support members in a
 - 13 stowed position such that the rollers are positioned between the upper rail
 - 14 member and the lower rail member; and
 - 15 wherein the ramp is adapted to be received by one of the first and second ramp
 - 16 hanger in an extended position, thereby providing the walkway for one of
 - 17 the bow, port side, and starboard side of the pontoon boat.

1 12. A ramp assembly according to claim 11, wherein:
2 the side rails of the ramp have an I-shaped cross-section, thereby forming an
3 inboard pocket and an outboard pocket on either side of the web; and
4 the rollers are received by the outboard pockets of the side rails.

1 13. A ramp assembly according to claim 11, wherein:
2 the side rails of the ramp have an I-shaped cross-section, thereby forming an
3 inboard pocket and an outboard pocket on either side of the web;
4 the rollers are received by the outboard pockets of the side rails; and
5 the inboard pockets of the side rails receive a plurality of modular walkway
6 members.

1 14. A ramp assembly according to claim 13, wherein the walkway members are extruded
2 tubing having a rectangular cross-section.

1 15. A ramp assembly according to claim 11 further comprising:
2 an endcap leg disposed at an inboard end of the ramp; and
3 wherein the endcap leg is received by one of the first hanger and the second
4 hanger when the ramp is placed in the extended position.

1 16. A ramp assembly according to claim 11, wherein the first and second ramp hangers are
2 mounted to the deck such that the ramp is capable of being positioned in the extended
3 position with the walkway substantially flush with the deck.

1 17. A ramp assembly according to claim 11 further comprising:
2 an endcap leg disposed at an inboard end of the ramp;
3 wherein the endcap leg is received by one of the first hanger and the second
4 hanger when the ramp is placed in the extended position; and
5 wherein the first and second ramp hangers are mounted to the deck such that the
6 ramp is capable of being positioned in the extended position with the
7 walkway substantially flush with the deck.

1 18. A ramp assembly according to claim 11 further comprising:
2 at least one hand railing;
3 a plurality of support legs pivotally connected to the hand railing;
4 a plurality of railing holes disposed in the ramp;
5 wherein in an assembled position, a portion of the support legs are received by the
6 railing holes and the hand railing is substantially parallel to the walkway of
7 the ramp; and
8 wherein in a collapsed position, the support legs are pivoted such to place the
9 support legs adjacent to the hand railing for storage.

1 19. A ramp assembly according to claim 11 further comprising:
2 a handle disposed near an outboard end of the ramp; and
3 a plank shoe pivotally connected to the handle, the plank shoe having an inclined
4 surface providing a smooth transition between the walkway surface of the
5 ramp and an anchor surface on which the outboard end of the ramp rests
6 when the ramp is in an extended position.

1 20. A ramp assembly for a pontoon boat having a deck supported by at least two pontoons,
2 the ramp assembly comprising:
3 a ramp having a walkway surface for providing ingress and egress to the pontoon
4 boat;
5 a first deck hanger positioned at the bow of the pontoon boat;
6 a second deck hanger positioned at one of the port side and the starboard side of
7 the pontoon boat;
8 wherein the ramp is capable of being attached to one of the first deck hanger and
9 the second deck hanger; and
10 wherein the ramp is stowable beneath the deck and between the pontoons of the
11 pontoon boat.